

Message Text

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SUBJECT: TRIAL OF OEI TJOE TAT

REF: JAKARTA 1859

BEGIN SUMMARY: TRIAL OF OEI TJOE TAT ON CHARGES OF INVOLVEMENT IN 1965 COMMUNIST COUP ATTEMPT CONTINUED INTO SECOND DAY WITH SUSTAINED PRESS COVERAGE. COURT REJECTED CONTENTION BY DEFENSE COUNSELS THAT CHARGES AGAINST DEFENDANT NOT SUFFICIENTLY CLEAR OR BASED ON LEGAL PRECEDENT. OEI TJOE TAT DENIED PARTICIPATION IN WRITING PARTINDO DECLARATION CALLING PKI COUP ATTEMPT AN AMRY MATTER BUT ADMITTED WRITING LETTERS EXPRESSING LOYALTY TO SUKARNO AND LEIMENA. TWO WITNESSES SUBSEQUENTLY TESTIFIED PARTINDO DECLARATION PREPARED DURING MEETING AT DEFENDANT'S HOUSE. END SUMMARY.

1. EVENTS OF SECOND DAY OF TRIAL OF FORMER MINISTER OF STATE OEI TJOE TAT ON CHARGES OF INVOLVEMENT IN 1965 COMMUNIST COUP ATTEMPT RECEIVED WIDE PRESS COVERAGE, IF SOMEWHAT LESS THAN ON OPENING DAY. PRESIDING JUDGE T.M. ABDULLAH OF CENTRAL JAKARTA STATE COURT REJECTED
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PROTESTS BY DEFENSE COUNSELS MADE PREVIOUS DAY WHICH

CLAIMED THAT CHARGES AGAINST DEFENDANT NOT PROPERLY BASED ON LAW AND NOT CLEAR. ABDULLAH SAID DEFENDANT WAS CHARGED UNDER LAW NO. 11 OF 1963 WHICH HAD BEEN THOROUGHLY PUBLICIZED LONG BEFORE EVENTS IN QUESTION OCCURRED, AND COURT PROCEEDINGS WERE COMPLETELY LEGAL IN ALL RESPECTS.

2. DEFENSE COUNSELS NEXT REQUESTED THAT DEFENDANT NOT BE CALLED TO TESTIFY BEFORE WITNESSES WERE EXAMINED. PROSECUTION DECLARED THAT STANDARD PRACTICE REQUIRED DEFENDANT TO TESTIFY PRIOR TO WITNESSES, AND THIS WAS UPHELD BY COURT. OEI TJOE TAT DENIED THAT HE HAD COMMITTED ANY SUBVERSIVE ACTS AND STATED THAT HE HAD HAD NO PART IN FORMULATING THE OCT. 4 DECLARATION OF PARTINDO THAT TERMED THE 30 SEPT. COUP ATTEMPT AN ARMY AFFAIR AND A POLITICAL MATTER. HE DID, HOWEVER, ADMIT WRITING LETTERS AT THAT TIME EXPRESSING HIS LOYALTY TO PRESIDENT SUKARNO AND DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER LEIMENA.

3. FIRST TWO WITNESSES CALLED TO TESTIFY WERE FORMER AMBASSADOR TO ALBANIA WARDOJO AND FORMER MINISTER OF MINES ARMUNATO. BOTH STATED THAT DECLARATION OF PARTINDO OCT. 4 WAS PRODUCED BY PARTY MEMBERS WHO MET AT OEI TJOE TAT'S HOUSE. UNDER QUESTIONING BOTH AGREED THAT PARTINDO DECLARATION REFLECTED PKI DECLARATION ON SAME SUBJECT OCT. 2. ADDITIONAL WITNESSES WILL BE CALLED FEB. 11.

4. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, OEI TJOE TAT FREQUENTLY REPLIED TO QUESTIONS WITH "I DON'T REMEMBER," "I FORGET," "IT WAS APPROXIMATELY," AND OTHER QUALIFYING WORDS WHICH MADE HIS ANSWERS SOMEWHAT LESS THAN DEFINITE. THIS IS, OF COURSE, NOT SURPRISING CONSIDERING THAT TEN YEARS HAVE ELAPSED SINCE THE EVENTS IN QUESTION OCCURRED. PRESIDING JUDGE ABDULLAH AT ONE POINT WARNED DEFENSE COUNSEL DR. YAP THIAM HIEN NOT TO ASK UNNECESSARY QUESTIONS DURING THE SESSION WHICH COULD DISTURB THE PROCEDURE OF THE TRIAL. MANY MORE WITNESSES ARE SCHEDULED TO BE HEARD AND TRIAL IS NOT EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED QUICKLY.

NEWSOM

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